

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-17, 19, 20 and 22-26 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 1-4, 8, 15-17, 19, 20, 25 and 26 as being merely objectionable. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, claims 22 and 23 have been rewritten into independent form and claims 5-7, 9, 10 and 12 have been amended, as required. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 5, 6 and 7, as referring to the transistors as "fifth" and "sixth." Applicants have now replaced this by "first" and "second."

In regard to claim 9, Applicants have deleted "third" in regard to the lower control transistor and have also removed the reference to "the second" in regard to the control signal.

In regard to claim 10, "one of" has been removed from line 13. Also, in claim 12, line 3, "the" has been deleted.

In regard to claims 22 and 23, Applicants have rewritten these claims into independent form, including the limitations of claims 15 and 21 as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 21 has then been cancelled, as suggested by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections to the claims have been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 15, 2004. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form should be sent to the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the claims now overcome the objection noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Application No.: 09/708,435

Docket No.: 0941-0187P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 31, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By

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